

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 30, 2015

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: D. Bruce, J. Burke, J. Denneen, C. Lane, M. Trudell, M. Iwanowicz, A. Ragosta, J. McDermott, S. Lawson. 7:20 p.m. A. Healy, T. Williams. 7:30 p.m. A. Walsh. Members absent were: P. Hinton, D. Crowley and J. Lowre. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Assistant Town Administrator T. Gregory, Selectmen M. Gallivan, C. Snuffer. Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey, School Superintendent L. Lynch, School Committee Members P. Shield, N. Gallivan, RTM Members J. Moraski, R. Pilla, and D. Culhane

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman D. Bruce.

Assistant Town Administrator

Town Administrator J. Johnson introduced the new Assistant Town Administrator, Tom Gregory.

May 4, 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Article 29 – PEG Access and Cable Fund

Town Administrator spoke to his April 30, 2015 request for the Finance Committee to reconsider their previous Favorable Action vote and to vote No Action. He explained that the DOR is revising its guidance on the accounting practices and recommends a No Action vote, at this time, and wait to see if the legal ruling is repealed or changed. Town Accountant has spoken to the Town's auditors and they recommend a No Action vote till the 2016 calendar year. Town Counsel is also recommending a No Action vote at this time.

Committee Member M. Iwanowicz spoke to a commentary should be presented to the Town Meeting on where Cable television is going, and provide an update on any agreement.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Reconsideration on Article 29, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Finance Committee

Minutes

April 30, 2015

Page 2

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action on Article 29, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Minutes

March 19, 2015

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the March 19, 2015 Minutes, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

March 23, 2015

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the March 23, 2015 Minutes, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

March 30, 2015

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the March 30, 2015 Minutes as amended, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

April 6, 2015

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the April 6, 2015 Minutes , Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

April 13, 2015

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the April 13, Minutes, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

State House Meeting

Committee Member S. Lawson updated the Committee on her attendance at the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's Day on the Hill with School Superintendent L. Lynch and School Committee Member N. Gallivan. Action items were identified and information provided on medical services for the schools. Walpole isn't the only community with problems.

7:20 p.m. – Committee Members A. Healy and T. Williams

Finance Committee Public Hearing on Budgets and Articles

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. McDermott to open the Finance Committee Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Chairman Bruce opened the meeting to any questions or comments on any particular article from the audience.

7:30 – Committee Member A. Walsh.

Article 5 – Funding of the FY2015 School Budget with the transfer of \$158,000 from Free Cash, Dental Insurance and Property & Liability bringing the budget into balance. It was cautioned using one time monies to balance a budget. School Superintendent spoke to reducing positions so not to start the FY2016 year in deficit. Finance Committee voted 11-0-0 in favor of this article.

Articles 7 and 8 – Sewer and Water Departments – Concerns expressed over the amount of \$17,000,000 to be spent over the next 5 years (not including purchase of Jarvis Farm), as they are Enterprise Funds and stand alone. Funds cannot be intermingled. Town Administrator will check into borrowing funds for sewers. Town needs to know the affect on borrowing funds and the capital structure on these departments.

Article 10 – Previous Year’s Unpaid Bills – Finance Committee voted No Action 11-0-0 as there were none.

Article 11 – Snow and Ice Deficit – Questions on the Overlay Reserve becoming a funding source for snow and ice. It should be used correctly and not a piggy bank. Finance Committee voted Favorable Action 11-0-0.

Chairman cautioned that next year’s Free Cash numbers will be low.

Article 12 – OPEB Funding – This is now part of Article 6 – Budgets. Committee will look further into this in the Fall and see where the fund is.

Article 13 – 14 – Capital Articles, Questions on the need for a sidewalk plow. J. Burke spoke to the Capital Budget Committee looking into this, Town has only one available and another one is used for parts, it consistently breaks down, and it was felt more important to purchase these two pieces of equipment. They are used year round and serve multiple purposes. Requested last year and the money was used for the Bird Middle School Security. They will be looking into repairs to Blackburn in the Fall and presently be addressing the fire escape

Finance Committee

Minutes

April 30, 2015

Page 4

Article 13 – Turco Field – \$50,000 to go into a fund towards the eventual replacement of the field, around \$500,000. This will be a separate revolving account and not in conflict with 53E1/2.

Questions on the \$8,000 funding for the Town Forest – 100th Anniversary preparation. The 75th was done without any funding from taxpayers, all money was donated or came out of the Trust Fund. If they do receive donations, money will come back as Free Cash.

Police motorcycle – this is an additional motorcycle, and originated from the police survey that residents would like to see more traffic enforcement, motorcycles are better at this and provides benefits in gas mileage and is operated on a year round basis. Some members questioned using three motorcycles during the day. Committee had questions on a written policy on taking home these vehicles. They are used on the 4-12 and 8-4 shifts.

Article 22 – Police Contract – Questions on what is the town receiving in benefits for this contract. Town receives medical adjustments, educational incentives and opting out of civil service. Police Chief feels it is valuable to eliminate civil service and allows the Town more flexibility in hiring. Officers agreeable on the education incentive and agree to -0- the first year of the contract.

Article 24 – Police Station – Concerns expressed that there were no plans right now. Town Administrator spoke to not being able to go out to bid without a design, cost \$500,000 to \$600,000 for design. Permanent Building Committee will oversee the project and project manager will be hired. Police Chief or Deputy will serve as an advisory committee. Town now owns the property on South Street and has been given clearance from the appropriate agencies for building. The covenant not to sue has not been approved by the Attorney General's Office. Selectmen have agreed not to go forward until we receive this. Town needs to have a clear title prior to beginning the process. Town Administrator spoke to being confident that the Town will get all the clearance.

Article 29 – Cable Revenue Account – Finance Committee voted No Action this evening till receiving further guidance from DOR. Residents spoke to possibly including this in the budget in order to allow Town Meeting to be involved in the oversight of the funds.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to close the Finance Committee Public Hearing at 8:45 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Finance Committee
Minutes
April 30, 2015
Page 5

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril, Clerk